(b) whether any such study has been conducted in India;

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to protect the enviornment?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Incinerators, if not designed and operated in a scientific manner, may emit highly toxic chemicals such as dioxins and furans.

(b) and (c) No comprehensive study has been carried out to inventorise emission of dioxins and furans.

(d) The Biomedical Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 notified by the Government of India, contain provisions, *inter alia*, for regulating the use of incinerators in the country for disposal of biomedical wastes. Under these Rules, incineration of chlorinated plastics has been prohibited. Only double chambered incinerators under controlled temperature conditions and with necessary pollution control devices are allowed under the Rules. The operating and emission standards for incinerators have also been prescribed as a part of these Rules.

Ban on plastic carry bags

2099. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government have notified the ban on use of plastic carry bags.

(b) if so, when was it notified;

(c) the names of States which have banned the use of plastic carry bags; and

(d) whether Karnataka has also banned the use of plastic carry bags?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have brought out Recycled Plastics manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999. These rules have prohibited the use of carry bags and containers made of recycled plastics for storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging of foodstuff. Besides these rules also have specified a minimum thickness of plastics carry bags made of virgin

or recycled plastics to be not less than 20 microns. These rules apply to all the States and Union Territories.

(d) As per the information made available by the karnataka State Pollution Control Board, public notices have been issued to implement the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999.

Protection of Similipal Tiger Reserve

2100. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that protection of Similipal Tiger Reserve in Orissa was to be handed over to the Central Reserve Police Force; if so, the details thereof;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in implementing the same; and

(c) whether Government are also considering any steps for such deployment in other areas in the country, including Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Ministry of Environment and Forests have released funds to the State Government in helping deployment of a dedicated Strike Force comprising of Paramilitary Forces.

(b) Home Ministry has not found it feasible to deploy paramilitary forces for protection of Similipal Tiger Reserve, and has suggested to the State for utilising their own armed police.

(c) The Central Government has taken a policy decision to assist State Government for deployment of Strike Forces in areas affected by insurgency and deteriorating law and order.

Wild Life conservation

2101. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKAR DAVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister announced in the meeting of Indian Board for Wild Life held on 22nd January, 2002 that there is need to reconcile economic growth and development with the wild life conservation and to safeguard the interest of local community, living in and around wild life habitats;

(b) if so, the other matters discussed in the meeting; and